

Testimony – Full Funding in Budget for Centers for Independent Living

Hello members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Frederick N. Frank, I live at 455 Harvest Ridge Road, Stratford, Ct. I am representing all People with Disabilities. I am against the Governors' proposed budget of 2016/2017 which will eliminate all funding for Centers for Independent Living from the Department of Rehabilitation (DORS) budget.

Newspaper headline today, "Malloy Budget Chief Defends Spending Plan Cuts." How can Mr. Barnes support this budget? This budget we are told saves money – *but on the backs of People with Disabilities!*

Several years ago I was employed by the Center for Disability Rights, in West Haven, Ct. under the program Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. I was the Housing Coordinator from Norwalk, Ct to Old Saybrook, Ct. My job consisted of transitioning People with Disabilities out of nursing homes and working with them to live in the community and to find housing of their choice. I would also arrange for the services they needed and transportation. I would make periodic check-ups with the person with the disability to see how they were doing or if they needed any assistance. For every person that was transitioned the state saved eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000). There are many people such as myself working for Centers for Independent Living accomplishing this feat. I have read that 111 People with Disabilities were transitioned by Centers for Independent Living saving the state Forty-four million, nine hundred and fourteen thousand and eighty-one dollars (\$44,914,081.00). And Mr. Barnes, says this is O.K. – I think not.

Initially twenty-five (25) years ago I was hired by the Disability Resource Center in Stratford, Ct. (DRC). Attached you will find my bio which was published in the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) annual report. I want to establish with all of you that I am truly disabled and my track record could not have been accomplished without the aid of a Center for Independent Living. So please restore full funding for Centers for Independent Living,

Thank you,

Frederick N. Frank